

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/796,452
Reply to Office Action dated: December 15, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 6 is new.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shinoura (US 6,574,853) in view of Kilmartin (US 5,889,215). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 1 requires "yoke portions respectively provided around outer peripheries of the exciting coil and the detection coil; and magnetic shield section formed of a magnetic material provided around the outer periphery of the yoke portion". Neither Shinoura nor Kilmartin teach a magnetic shield. The magnetic-field-guiding housing (16) disclosed in Kilmartin (see Figure 1a, column 3, line 3 and column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 2) best corresponds to the yoke of the current invention. Kilmartin does not suggest a shield formed around the outer periphery of the magnetic-field-guiding housing (16). Favorable reconsideration of claims 1, 4, and 5 is requested.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shinoura in view of Kilmartin, and further in view of Baatz (US 5,578,918). Applicants traverse this rejection. Baatz does not remedy the deficiencies of Shinoura and Kilmartin, as previously noted. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims. Favorable reconsideration of claims 2 and 3 is requested.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612)336-472.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165

CBH:mfe